



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Friday - October 11, 2002

- ***In the West***, warm, dry weather favors autumn fieldwork in ***California and the Four Corners region***. In the ***Northwest***, however, significantly colder weather is slowing winter wheat development.
- ***On the Plains***, warm, dry weather from ***Nebraska southward*** is promoting winter wheat growth, although soil moisture shortages persist in many areas. In contrast, sharply colder weather is slowing wheat development across ***Montana***, where today's high temperatures are forecast to remain below 50 degrees F.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, warm, dry weather is temporarily returning to the ***upper Midwest***, permitting a limited return to the frequently delayed corn and soybean harvests. Meanwhile, showers are gradually ending across the ***eastern Corn Belt***, where recent rainfall has improved prospects for the 2002-03 winter wheat crop.
- ***In the South***, wet fields across the ***lower Mississippi Valley*** continue to significantly delay harvest activities and further threaten the quality of unharvested cotton. Meanwhile, widespread rainfall in the ***middle and southern Atlantic States*** is slowing fieldwork but further easing long-term drought. Tropical Storm Kyle, currently positioned off the ***coast of Georgia***, is contributing to heavy showers in the ***southern Atlantic region***.

Outlook: Widespread rain will persist today across the ***Mid-Atlantic*** before tapering off to scattered showers during the weekend. Meanwhile, Tropical Storm Kyle will bring locally heavy rain to the ***Southeast Coast***. Elsewhere, showers will accompany a strong cold front in the ***Great Plains and upper Midwest***, as the season's first widespread freeze overspreads the ***central U.S.***. Early next week, a second cold front will maintain below-normal temperatures across the ***Plains***. Dry conditions will prevail from the ***Rockies to the Pacific Coast***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for October 16-20 features surplus precipitation in the ***Southwest, north-central Rockies and High Plains, Delta, Ohio Valley, and Great Lakes region***, while drier-than-normal conditions are forecast for the ***Pacific Northwest, southern High Plains, and southern Atlantic Coast States***. Subnormal temperatures are forecasted ***east of the Rockies and west of the Appalachians***, while above-normal readings are expected in ***southern Florida and northern California***.

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